<u>REMARKS</u>

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 and 23-25 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-20, 23-25 having been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.[1]

In the Office Action, Claims 3 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 1, 4-9, 12-14, 16, and 18-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by <u>Bel et al.</u> (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0174354 A1, hereinafter "<u>Bel</u>"); Claims 2-3, 10-11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Bel</u> in view of <u>Tanaka et al.</u> (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114466 A1, hereinafter "<u>Tanaka</u>"); and Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Bel</u> in view of <u>O'Neil</u> (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0085490 A1).

Claims 3 and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended Claim 3 to remove the phrase "read key." Applicants have also amended Claim 13 to clarify the recited "means . . . for associating." With regard to Claim 15, Applicants submit this claim recites an additional function performed by the "means for extracting." Applicants note that the features recited in Claim 15 find support at least in the specification at the second full paragraph on page 48 and at the first full paragraph on page 63. In addition, Applicants have amended Claim 19 to remove the phrase "as a client of the information server." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 3 and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

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[1] The amendments to Claims 1, 19-20, and 23 find support at least in Figure 6, its accompanying text in the specification, and in the specification at the paragraph bridging pages 17 and 18. The amendments to Claims 13 and 24-25 find support at least in Figure 12 and in its accompanying text in the specification.

Independent Claims 1, 19-20, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bel. Applicants submit that amended Claims 1, 19-20, and 23 recite novel features not taught or rendered obvious by the applied reference.

Amended Claim 1 recites an information device, including, in part, "means for reading out the grouped device identification information from the license." Applicants submit that Bel and Tanaka fail to disclose or suggest these features.

Bel states that "each playback device (121) in the group can decrypt the license file (141) and play the content item (102)."[2] Further to Bel,

> It is known per se to encrypt data so that only a particular device can read it, for instance by encrypting the data with the public key of that particular device, preferably with the use of a session key. This means that the license file could alternatively be encrypted multiple times using multiple public keys, once for each playback device in the group.[3]

Thus, Bel describes encrypting data with a key. Bel also describes encrypting a license with multiple keys. However, Bel fails to disclose or suggest "means for reading out the grouped device identification information *from the license*," as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, Tanaka does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Bel. Tanaka states that "[a]n encryption and decryption unit 24 encrypts content and decrypts already encrypted content."[4] Tanaka also explains,

> If the outcome of the judgment formed at the step S44 indicates that the acquired license is still in its term of validity, or if the license can be updated at the step S45, the flow of the processing goes on to a step S46 at which the CPU 21 reads out the encrypted content from the storage unit 28 and stores the content into the RAM 23. Then, at the next step S47, the CPU 21 supplies the data of the encrypted content stored in the RAM 23 to the encryption and decryption unit 24 in encrypted-block units included in the data portion shown in FIG. 5. The

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[2] Bel, Abstract.
[3] Id., para. [0010].
[4] Tanaka, para. [0077].

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> encryption and decryption unit 24 then decrypts the encrypted
> content by using the content key Kc.[5]

Thus, according to Tanaka, if a license is valid, then an encrypted content is decrypted using a content key. However, Tanaka fails to disclose or suggest "means for reading out the grouped device identification information from the license, [and] for reading out the key information from the user data based on the grouped device identification information," as recited in amended Claim 1.

Thus, Applicants submit that Bel and Tanaka fail to disclose or suggest "means for reading out," as recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over Bel and Tanaka.

Applicants submit that amended Claims 19-20 and 23 define over Bel and Tanaka for at least reasons similar to those presented above with regard to amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 19-20 and 23 (and all associated dependent claims) also patentably distinguish over Bel and Tanaka.

Independent Claims 13 and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Bel. Applicants have amended these claims to recite features related to those recited in Claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants will address the patentability of amended Claims 13 and 24-25 in view of the outstanding rejection of Claim 17 over Bel and Tanaka.

Amended Claim 13 recites an information server, including "means for determining whether to charge for providing a license from the information server, based on whether the grouped device identification information is registered by the means for registering." Applicants submit that Bel and Tanaka fail to disclose or suggest these features.

The Office Action appears to acknowledge that Bel fails to disclose or suggest "means . . . for determining whether to charge for providing the license from the means for

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[5] Id., para. [0108].

providing, depending on the judgment."[6] Applicants respectfully submit that Bel fails to teach or disclose such a feature.

To remedy the above-noted deficiency in Bel, the Office Action relies on Tanaka. According to Tanaka, "[t]he charging server 5 carries out a charging process for the client 1 when the client 1 receives a license from the license server 4."[7] Further to Tanaka, "the license server 4 requests the client 1 to transmit a user ID, a password and license-specifying information specifying a license to be purchased."[8]

Thus, Tanaka merely describes purchasing a license. Tanaka fails to disclose or suggest "means for determining whether to charge for providing a license from the information server, *based on whether the grouped device identification information is registered by the means for registering*," as recited in amended Claim 13.

Thus, Applicants submit that Bel and Tanaka fail to disclose or suggest "means for determining," as recited in amended Claim 13. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 13 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over Bel and Tanaka.

Further, Applicants submit that amended Claims 24-25 patentably distinguish over Bel and Tanaka for at least reasons similar to those presented above with regard to amended Claim 13.

Dependent Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bel and O'Neil. Applicants respectfully submit that O'Neil fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Bel with regard to independent Claim 13. Thus, it is submitted that the rejection of dependent Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot.

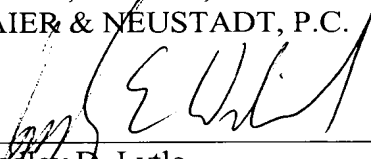[6] Office Action, at 11, ll.9-12.
[7] Tanaka, para. [0074].
[8] Id., para. [0114].

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment,

the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable

action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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